

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide funding for innovations in community policing, mental health care, and community safety, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. BENNET introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide funding for innovations in community policing, mental health care, and community safety, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Mental As-

5       sistance Responder Teams Community Policing Act” or

6       the “SMART Community Policing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to strength community po-  
3 licing programs to—

4 (1) de-escalate interactions with law enforce-  
5 ment officers to achieve better outcomes for non-vio-  
6 lent individuals experiencing crisis or trauma relat-  
7 ing to mental health issues, poverty, homelessness,  
8 and substance use disorders;

9 (2) build collaborative partnerships to connect  
10 individuals with mental health services and commu-  
11 nity resources; and

12 (3) produce better outcomes for communities  
13 and law enforcement officers by delivering the ap-  
14 propriate treatment and other support services to in-  
15 dividuals in need.

16 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USES OF COPS FUNDS.**

17 Section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-  
18 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b))  
19 is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (24), by striking “and” at the  
21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (25), by striking the period at  
23 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(26) to establish or expand a mobile crisis  
26 team program to—

1           “(A) hire skilled mental health profes-  
2           sionals and paramedics to—

3                   “(i) respond to—

4                           “(I) certain 911 dispatch calls at  
5                           the request of law enforcement offi-  
6                           cers; and

7                           “(II) community members re-  
8                           questing assistance directly;

9                           “(ii) stabilize encounters between law  
10                          enforcement officers and individuals expe-  
11                          riencing a mental or behavioral health cri-  
12                          sis; and

13                          “(iii) assume responsibility for secur-  
14                          ing mental health services for individuals,  
15                          including individuals in crisis who may  
16                          need further evaluation and treatment;

17                          “(B) train law enforcement officers  
18                          partnering with mental health professionals and  
19                          paramedics;

20                          “(C) use a mobile unit to facilitate the re-  
21                          sponse of law enforcement officers and mental  
22                          health professionals and paramedics to commu-  
23                          nity members experiencing a mental or behav-  
24                          ioral health crisis; and

25                          “(D) hire other personnel;

1           “(27) to establish or expand a co-responder  
2 program under which—

3           “(A) a trained law enforcement officer is  
4 paired with a behavioral health clinician or  
5 paramedic to—

6           “(i) de-escalate situations involving a  
7 mental health crisis;

8           “(ii) connect individuals with mental  
9 illness to appropriate services; and

10           “(iii) provide other effective and effi-  
11 cient responses to individuals with mental  
12 illness; and

13           “(B) additional personnel, including law  
14 enforcement officers and case managers, may  
15 be hired; and

16           “(28) to establish or expand a case manage-  
17 ment and outreach team—

18           “(A) to follow up with individuals experi-  
19 encing a mental or behavioral health crisis to—

20           “(i) connect those individuals with  
21 mental health services and community re-  
22 sources; and

23           “(ii) help those individuals abide by  
24 treatment plans and meet other respon-

1                   sibilities, such as work, school, and train-  
2                   ing;

3                   “(B) to develop specific solutions for, and  
4                   provide support resources to, individuals who  
5                   frequently use emergency services to reduce re-  
6                   peat interactions between the individuals de-  
7                   scribed in subparagraph (A) and law enforce-  
8                   ment officers or mental health professionals and  
9                   paramedics; and

10                   “(C) which may be established as a part of  
11                   a mobile crisis team program under paragraph  
12                   (26), a co-responder program under paragraph  
13                   (27), or an independent team.”.